



Daily Bulletin



96th Fall North American Bridge Championships | NABCDailyBulletin@acbl.org

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LM Pairs waivers

Participation in the Nail Life Master Pairs is limited to ACBL members who have achieved the rank of Life Master. Players who reside outside North America and who do not meet this criteria must receive a waiver before entering.

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Eligibility points

Notice to members of other national bridge organizations:

If you are now or have been a member of a bridge organization outside of the U.S., Canada, Mexico or Bermuda, please be aware that you must have eligibility points assigned to you (or those previously issued to you reviewed). This is especially important

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Smoking policy

No smoking or vaping of any kind is allowed in guest rooms at the Westgate. There is an automatic \$500 fine for each occurrence. Smoking areas are outside the North Tower and outside the Paradise foyer on the north patio.



Goodwill Message

Welcome to the 2024 Fall North American Bridge Championships in Las Vegas. Tournament co-chairs Liz Hamilton and Rolf Houtkooper and their local committee have a great tournament planned for everyone. Please join us in saying thank you to our hosts.

Remember: In the world of bridge, Goodwill is our strongest suit!

Lamya Agelidis, Chair

Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee

Bleish defends Robot title in squeaker



Bill Bleish, winner of the Fall NABC Robot Individual in 2023, successfully defended his title last weekend by the razor-thin margin of 0.01%. Bleish, of Lenexa KS, finished the three-day contest with a 70.13% score, holding off a challenge by Yauheni Siutsau of Loveland OH who finished with 70.12%.

Bleish scored 65.10% in the first session, good for 70th place, but he won the second session with a 73.30% set, bringing him to seventh place. A final

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Welcome to Las Vegas

By Liz Hamilton & Rolf Houtkooper, Tournament Co-Chairs

We are thrilled you are here! Las Vegas is an amazing destination with so much to do after your day at the bridge table ends. Plan ahead and enjoy every hour you are here. Great restaurants, great shows, great bridge and great fun!

The famous Las Vegas Strip is just over four miles long and lets you experience iconic landmarks that transport you across continents. You can stroll past the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower across from the Fountains of Bellagio. Keep going



to experience a gondola ride at the Venetian. The possibilities are endless.

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Entry Express and purchase options

All monetary transactions are cashless, including entries for NABC and regional games. All major debit/credit cards are accepted wherever entries are sold.

Advance entries for events are available through the ACBL's online Entry Express system. It is necessary for eligible players to use this system in order to receive the host discount of \$10 per session for being a guest of the

host hotel or resident of the host district.

To use Entry Express, go to members.acbl.org/tournaments/2412001/detail or scan

the QR code at right. This may be done until midnight the day before the event begins.

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Today's Bridge Events

Friday, Nov. 29

Friday, Nov. 25			Entry/player/session*	
Event	Session	10 am Sold	Members with host discount	Members without discount
Friday Morning Side Pairs <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
299er Pairs	single	Pavilion 11	\$18	\$28
10 am & 3 pm				
NAIL LIFE MASTER PAIRS <i>2 qualifying & 2 final sessions</i>	1-2 Q	Ballroom C	\$35	\$45
Open Pairs (<i>unlim./4000/1500</i>)	1-2	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
Gold Rush Pairs	1-2	Pavilion 11	\$22	\$32
Open Bracketed Round Robin Teams	1-2	Paradise North	\$22	\$32
1 & 7:30 pm				
SOLOWAY KNOCKOUT TEAMS <i>2-day Swiss Qualifying and 5-day KO.</i>	1-2 Q	Ballroom C	\$130	\$150
			<i>Fee covers four sessions.</i>	
3 pm				
Friday Afternoon Side Pairs <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
299er Pairs	single	Pavilion 11	\$18	\$28
7:30 pm				
Friday Evening Side Pairs <i>Fri-Mon Evening Series</i>	single	Pavilion 11	\$22	\$22

Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2500+), B (750-2500), C (0-750). Three-flight events are divided A/X (6000+/0-6000); B/C (1500-3000, 0-1500); Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). Two-flight events are divided A/X/Y (6000+/4000-6000/0-4000); B/C/D (1500-3000/750-1500/0-750) if no Gold Rush OR A/B/C (3000+/1500-3000/0-1500) and Gold Rush (400-750/200-400/0-200). In B flights, no single player may be over 3000. In Gold Rush events, no single player may be over 750. **BOLD, UPPER CASE = NABC+ events.** UPPER CASE = NABC events. **Green = Regional events (gold and red points).** **Blue = Gold Rush events (gold and red points).** **Red = Intermediate/Newcomer 299er events (red points).**

International Fund

In NABC+ events, \$1.50 (per person, per session) of each entry fee will be allocated to the ACBL International Fund. These funds are used to underwrite part of the expenses of ACBL players who participate in international competition.



We Share the Air

Please keep it healthy and fragrance-free

The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma, allergies and other respiratory ailments.

Be Sensitive to Others

Please
DO NOT wear
perfume, cologne,
lotion, aftershave
and other fragrances.

USE unscented
personal care products.

Robot winner

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session score of 72.00% was just enough for Bleish to win the event.

Runner-up Siutsau won the third session with an impressive 76.03% score, but his first two sessions were 63.99% and 70.34% respectively, making his three-day average just short of Bleish's.

In third was Italy's Andrea Boldrini who posted a 69.40% average.



Lei Tsui, of Thousand Oaks CA, was the top Flight B player with a three-day average of 64.31%, good for 26th place overall.



The best score by a Flight C player was turned in by Max Cheng of Toronto with a 64.17% effort and 30th place overall.



Learn Bridge

in A Day?®

Move quickly along the initial learning curve.

You'll nail the basics of bridge in this interactive class that has both instruction and coached play. If you're just starting, returning to the game or wanting to "test the waters" before taking formal lessons, this course is for you. Leave the class and take on a newcomer game!

Date: Saturday, Nov. 30
Time: 1-6 p.m.
Location: Westgate Ballroom F&G
Cost: \$25 pre-registered at acbl.org/reglbiad or \$30 at the door - includes textbook

More info:

Email marketing@acbl.org





LM Pairs waiver

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Similarly, the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs requires a Blue Ribbon qualification. First-time foreign players without a blue ribbon should seek a waiver.

For waiver information, please visit the Tournament Operations office (Conference Room 4) at least one hour before the start of the event. Players who have been waived into past Life Master Pairs do not have to re-apply.

Eligibility points

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if you intend to enter an event with a masterpoint limit or a bracketed event. Please visit the Tournament Operations office (Conference Room 4) for this purpose.

DID YOU KNOW THAT AS AN ACBL MEMBER YOU CAN ACCESS EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS?

New offers are continually being added, so check back often!



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Log in to your MyACBL account, simply click the "Member Benefits" link on the left.

acbl.org/myacbl

Welcome to Las Vegas

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The Strip is full of surprises and each casino has its own inviting attractions. See their websites to explore. Cirque de Soleil can be found in multiple hotels and other world-class shows will pop up too. Visit LasVegas.com to find out about current special deals around town.

Our host hotel, the Westgate, has a super selection of restaurants and entertainment. It is also one of the stops on the convenient monorail system that allows easy access to multiple destinations (see restaurant guide for details). From these destinations you can walk along the

strip to other casinos, restaurants and shopping.

The Sphere should not be missed. Watch from the outside and be amazed or take a tour for a unique experience. Las Vegas also provides easy access to amazing national parks, including Red Rock National Conservation Area, Valley of Fire, Lake Mead and, of course, the iconic Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon.

All bridge events will be held in the Westgate on the ground floor convention space – easily accessible. There is an outstanding group of volunteers waiting to welcome you and to assist you to make your 2024 Fall Las Vegas NABC a memorable experience.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MEETINGS / SEMINARS / RECEPTIONS

Meetings are at the Westgate.

Friday, November 29		1–6 pm	Learn Bridge in a Day?™ This popular session is designed especially for true beginners, those returning to bridge after long absences and those merely wanting to “test the waters” before committing to formal classes. The concentrated course includes both class instruction and coached play. No pre-registration required. Fee: \$30 covers textbook and door prizes. <i>Ballroom F</i>
1–5 p.m.	Best Practices Teacher Workshop. Session one of three. ACBL’s interactive seminar for people interested in learning how to teach bridge. <i>Conference Room 11, second floor</i>		
6:30–8 pm	Club and Teacher Reception. Thank-you reception for the teachers and club officials who work so hard to recruit and retain our members. <i>Pavilion 9</i>	6–8:30 pm	Learn Bridge in a Day?™ Teacher Accreditation. Teacher training includes information on organizing and marketing LBIAD as well as maximizing retention rates, writing effective grant requests and the presentation of the seminar. Fee: \$75. <i>Ballroom F</i>
Saturday, November 30		7 pm–midnight	ACBL Educational Foundation Junior Night. <i>Conference Room 7, second floor</i>
8 am–noon	Best Practices Teacher Workshop. Session two of three. ACBL’s interactive seminar for people interested in learning how to teach bridge. <i>Conference Room 11, second floor</i>	8–10 pm	Fair Play Committee meeting. <i>Executive Board Room, second floor</i>
8–9:45 am	Free Bridge Lesson with Jerry Helms, “Suit Defense,” followed by a special game for newer players. <i>Ballroom F</i>		
8:30–9:30 am	Hall of Fame Committee meeting. <i>Executive Board Room, second floor</i>		

CELEBRITY SPEAKER PROGRAM

Don’t miss these free lectures by some of the best-known players in the game! *Talks will be held in Pavilion 11. Speakers and topics are subject to change.*

Friday, Nov. 29		Saturday, Nov. 30	
9:15 am	Patty Tucker <i>Why Overcall a INT Opening?</i>	9:15 am	Adam Parrish <i>Being a Good Partner</i>
2:15 pm	Jeff Hand <i>Play These Trump Contracts</i>		

HOSPITALITY

Food will be served starting at 9 a.m. in the Pavilion hall. On three selected dates, courtesy of the host committee, dessert items are available at 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 29 Black forest ham breakfast sandwich	Saturday, Nov. 30 Sausage egg bites or spinach egg bites
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PATRON LOUNGE

Patron Members are invited to visit the Patron Lounge in Pavilion 7 (off the passway) from 1 to 3 p.m. today through Friday, Dec. 6, for light lunch and coffee. The Patron Lounge is also open for coffee from 9 to 10 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 29 Mini-tacos, crispy veggie pita tacos, riddle corn, cake pops	Saturday, Nov. 30 Sin City Sliders (chicken parmesan or reuben), biscotti
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JUST FOR NEW PLAYERS

Welcome Gold Rush and I/N Players to Las Vegas

Starting today, Gold Rush and Intermediate/Newcomer (GRIN) games begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and are held in Pavilion 11.

The GRIN Partnership Desk can help you find a partner. The earlier you request one, the better.

Don't forget to pick up your welcome gift from both the Welcome and I/N desks.

Celebrity speakers will give free mini-lessons at 9:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on most days. Today, Patty Tucker presents "Why Overcall a 1NT Opening?" and Jeff Hand presents "Play These Trump Contracts."

Entry fee special

ACBL members with 0–5 masterpoints can play free in the 299er or 99er games today.

Learn Bridge in a Day?

Yes! Let Patty Tucker show you how on Saturday, Nov. 30,

from 1–6 p.m. in Ballroom F. Fee: \$25 if preregistered or \$30 at the door, acbl.org/reglbiad.

Bridge Plus

Don't miss these free lessons (8–9:45 a.m.) by renowned teachers in Ballroom F:

Saturday, Nov. 30

Jerry Helms, *Suit Defense*

Sunday, Dec. 1

Donna Compton, *Slam Bidding*

A special game for 0–20 MPs players will be held immediately following these lectures (12 deals, free!).

Doubles in a Day

Learn two doubles that come up every time you play on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 1–5 p.m. in Ballroom F. Fee: \$25 if preregistered or \$30 at the door, acbl.org/reglbiad.

Tips for New Players

By Frank Stewart

Plan, then play

When you're declarer, you can't act like Cy the Cynic, a denizen of my imaginary club. Cy plunges ahead, adopting the first line of play that occurs to

him. Cy maintains that his approach saves wear and tear on his brain, but he loses many makeable contracts.

Before you call for the first card, make a plan, beginning with a count of winners (often at notrump or at a low-level suit contract) or losers (often at a game or slam where, let us hope, you don't have many losers).

What would be your plan at this 4♠?

Dlr: South ♠ K Q 2
Vul: None ♥ 6 5
IMPs ♦ Q 6 4
♣ A K 6 4 2

♠ A J 10 9 3
♥ A 7 2
♦ 9 3 2
♣ Q 5



West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Many players would open as South, but you must draw the line somewhere. Though North has only three-card spade support, a raise to 2♠ was his best call. West leads the ♦J and a second diamond. East takes the ♦K and ♦A and leads a heart; your ace wins.

You have nine winners: five trumps, three clubs, one heart. If the missing clubs break 3–3, no problem: draw trumps and run the clubs. If clubs are 4–2, you can take the queen and ace, then ruff a club, and hope to draw all the trumps ending in dummy and take two more clubs. But that plan will fail if the trumps break 4–1.

Start with the A–K of trumps. If East–West follow, take the ♣Q, ♣A and ruff a club; if trumps break 4–1, draw trumps and rely on a 3–3 club break.

You will play many contracts that seem routine. Those require a second look:

Dlr: South	♠ Q 9 4 3	
Vul: None	♥ A 7 5 2	
IMPs	♦ Q 5 2	
	♣ K 4	
	♠ J 7 6 5	♠ —
	♥ 10 9	♥ Q J 8 6 3
	♦ A 9 6	♦ K J 10 4
	♣ J 7 5 2	♣ Q 10 9 6
		♠ A K 10 8 2
		♥ K 4
		♦ 8 7 3
		♣ A 8 3

South played at a dull-looking 4♠, and West led the ♥10. Declarer won with the king and cashed the ♠A ... and East discarded. Declarer led a second trump to dummy's 9, took the ♣K A, ruffed his last club and cashed the ♠Q, but then he was stuck in dummy. When he took the ♥A and ruffed a heart, West overruffed, and the defense took three diamonds.

It took care and foresight for South to correctly win the first trick with the ♥A. Plan, then play!

Entry Express

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Hotel guests are assigned two discount coupons per night of stay plus one (e.g., six nights gets 14 coupons).

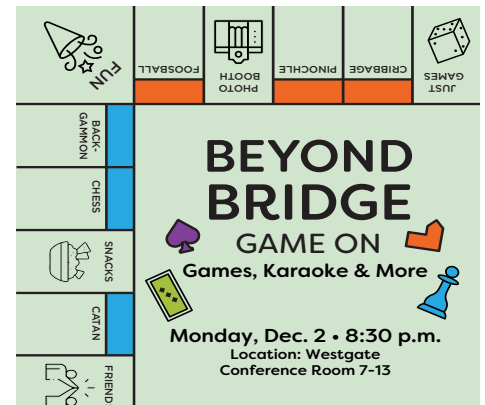
For help with Entry Express, visit the Entry Express Help Desk located in the Pavilion passway.

Entries may also be purchased at

the event location in the hour before the start time.

Entries for NABC events are no longer available on Bridge Winners.

Buying early is especially recommended for NABC+ pairs events. All entries must be purchased at least 15 minutes before game time. Pairs who expect to be seeded should buy at least 30 minutes in advance.



INTERNATIONAL FUND SWISS TEAMS

16 Tables

	A	B	C	
6.93	1			Subodh Maskara, Mumbai India; Jaggy Shivdasani, West Hollywood CA; Sandeep Thakral, Gurgaon India; Subhash Gupta, New Delhi India; Keyzad Anklesaria, Ahmedabad India; Harald Eide, Hamar Norway
				69.00
5.20	2			Alexander Allfrey, Dorset England; Andrew Robson, Wiltshire United Kingdom; Patrick Lawrence – Oliver Lawrence, London United Kingdom
				55.00
3.90	3			Sam Dinkin, Austin TX; Jacob Freeman, New York NY; Owen Lien, Oak Park MI; Ulf Nilsson, Dalby Sweden
				52.00
2.92	4			Ahu Zobu, Tarabya Istanbul Turkey; Valentin Kovachev, Las Vegas NV; Viktor Aronov – Vladislav Isporski, Sofia Bulgaria
				49.00
4.08	5	1		Rui Gong – Nathan Gong, Sammamish WA; Jason Yao, Bellevue WA; Tom Carmichael, Marysville WA
				47.00
3.06		2		Xiaodong Zhao, Edmonton AB; Yi Peng Mai – Jadwiga Polujan – Mike D. Aguiar, Calgary AB
				44.00
2.61		3	1	Kari Tetzlaff – Samuel Ehrlichman – Cecilia Ehrlichman, Brooklyn NY; Kyra Helmbold, Minneapolis MN
				40.00

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SWISS TEAMS

16 Tables

	A	B	C	
6.93	1			Sergio Bianchi, Cesena Italy; Federico Porta Tadolini, Roma Italy; Francesco Mazzadi, Parma Italy; Fabio Lo Presti, Bergamo Italy
				56.00
5.20	2			Alfred Lee, Foster City CA; Hannah Moon, Saskatoon SK; Kenji Miyakuni – Ayako Miyakuni, Tokyo Japan; Ken Gee, Regina SK; Cliff Campbell, Thunder Bay ON
				54.00
3.90	3			Ahu Zobu, Tarabya Istanbul Turkey; Viktor Aronov – Vladislav Isporski, Sofia Bulgaria; Henry Nelson, Zelienople PA
				51.00
2.92	4			Jeff Xiao – Guanghao Xiao, Shrewsbury MA; Jovanka Smederevac – Alexander Wernle, Vienna Austria
				47.00
1.92	5/6			Sam Dinkin, Austin TX; Jacob Freeman, New York NY; Ulf Nilsson, Dalby Sweden; Owen Lien, Oak Park MI
				46.00
3.63	5/6	1		Kenneth King, Pleasanton CA; Luca Crone, Dublin Ireland; David Koble, Bartlesville OK; Sam Whitten, Southaven MS
				46.00
2.72		2		Xiaodong Zhao, Edmonton AB; Yi Peng Mai – Jadwiga Polujan – Mike D. Aguiar, Calgary AB
				45.00
2.29			1/2	Claire Valente – Barry Balof – Daniel Balof, Walla Walla WA; Avery Silverstein, Ridgefield CT
				44.00
2.29			1/2	Kari Tetzlaff – Samuel Ehrlichman – Cecilia Ehrlichman, Brooklyn NY; Kyra Helmbold, Minneapolis MN
				44.00

INTERNATIONAL FUND 299ER PAIRS

3.0 Tables

	D	E	F	
1.95	1			Jay Hansen - Toni Hansen, Simi Valley CA
				59.50%
1.46	2			Jessica Yao, Bellevue WA; Katherine Lee, Hillsborough CA
				55.20%

INTERNATIONAL FUND PAIRS

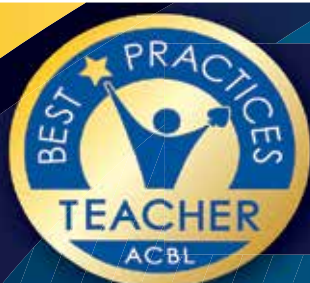
34.5 Tables

A	B	C	
9.75	1		Nigel Bird - Brian Senior, England 69.99%
7.31	2		Amit Winkler - Adi Asulin, Israel 66.90%
5.48	3		Sathya Bettadapura, Campbell CA; Ritobrata Bagchi, Orleans ON 65.74%
4.11	4		Saleh Fetouh, Buffalo NY; Jiang Gu, Mountain Lakes NJ 63.14%
3.08	5		Carrie Liu - Maxim Siline, Hudson MA 61.72%
2.31	6		Kim Koski - William Koski, Gilford ON 61.70%
2.57	7		Richard Lash - Thomas Dale, St. John's NL 61.66%
1.72	8		Andrea Knox - Martin Garvey, United Kingdom 60.12%
1.80	9		Mustafa Cem Tokay, New York NY; Paola Di Giulio, Italy 59.82%
4.98	1		Robert Larson, Sherwood Park AB; Kevin Noble, Ft. Saskatchewan AB 56.46%
3.74	2	1	Robert Rottmayer - Mary Lyons, Santa Rosa CA 55.46%
2.80	3		Luca Crone, Dublin Ireland; Kenneth King, Pleasanton CA 55.14%
2.10	4	2	Li Zhang, San Jose CA; Jay Wang, San Leandro CA 52.74%
1.58	5		Lisa Hebert - Maurice Brazeau, Ottawa ON 49.62%
1.18	6		Howard Waldman, Jupiter FL; Terry Sappah, Anchorage AK 48.92%
1.38		3	Yongkang Huang, Los Angeles CA; Ming Hu, Whittier CA 47.58%

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION PAIRS

37.0 Tables

A	B	C	
10.18	1		Jiang Gu, Mountain Lakes NJ; Erli Zhou, Sunnyvale CA 72.44%
7.64	2		Parag Saxena, Rye NY; Migry Zur Campanile, New York NY 66.91%
5.73	3		Randall Dougherty - Lynne Newman, San Diego CA 65.10%
4.29	4		Roger McNay, Beaverton OR; Joel Datloff, Vancouver WA 59.55%
5.63	5	1	Jian Wang, Myrtle Beach SC; Malcolm Morris, United Kingdom 59.38%
2.57	6		Matthew Dyer - Rahul Garga, Chicago IL 59.37%
1.81	7		Marc Furnemont - Ingrid Anderson, Nanaimo BC 59.28%
1.88	8		Brian Senior - Nigel Bird, England 59.14%
2.57	9		Alexis Pejacsevich - Jose Tahta, Argentina 59.14%
4.22	10	2	Rolf Houtkooper, Las Vegas NV; Kai Eckert, El Granada CA 59.07%
3.17		3	Raymond Jung, Hamilton ON; Ranjan Bhaduri, Toronto ON 55.88%
2.38		4	Margaret Norris, Deadwood SD; Duane Myres, Mesquite NV 55.05%
2.80		5	1 Kaiwen Wang - Yiran Liu, Fort Lee NJ 54.26%
1.34		6	John Worley, Fort Collins CO; Ronald Grosh, Middleton WI 53.90%
1.00		7	Stephanie Singer, Belmont CA; Carol Kemper, Portola Valley CA 53.24%
2.10			2 Andrea Palm, Forest VA; Suzanne Peters, Lynchburg VA 50.94%
1.58			3 G. Sherley Blodgett - Christopher Grosvenor, Mesquite NV 50.24%
1.18			4 Yongkang Huang, Los Angeles CA; Ming Hu, Whittier CA 49.93%



Share the game you love!

Whether you are just getting started as a bridge teacher or looking to update your skills, arm yourself with proven tactics in a hands-on workshop.

Spring Workshop • acbl.org/memphis

Pre-register online and guarantee your seat. All registrants must pass a Basic Bridge Knowledge Test to participate in the workshop (pass score: 70%).

Workshop fee: \$125

Dates: Participants must attend all three days

Friday, March 14 (1 - 5 pm)

Saturday, March 15 (8 am - noon)

Sunday, March 16 (8 am - noon)

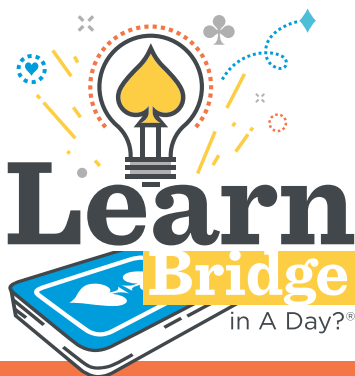
For more information
contact the ACBL
education department
at education@acbl.org

NABC ROBOT INDIVIDUAL

2030 tables

A	B	C		Percent
1			William Bleish, Lenexa KS	70.13
2			Yauheni Siutsau, Loveland OH	70.12
3			Andrea Boldrini, Roma Italy	69.40
4			William Neumann, Columbia MD	68.60
5			Robert Brady, McLean VA	68.47
6			Adam Pawlowski, Kutno, Poland	68.40
7			Giovanni Salomone, Fossano, Italy	68.31
8			Erli Zhou, Sunnyvale CA	68.26
9			Finn Kolesnik, Austin TX	67.58
10			John Mayne, Modesto CA	67.26
11			David Smith, Lafayette CA	66.87
12			Ethan Liu, Fremont CA	66.85
13			Aldo Gerli, Padova, Italy	66.64
14			Zachary Vedro, South Pasadena CA	66.18
15			Peter Sager, San Rafael CA	65.77
16			Kimmel Jones, Euless TX	65.52
17			Guohui Zhang, Madison AL	65.46
18			Lin-Huan Chen, Kirksville MO	65.42
19			David Chechelashvili, Santa Monica CA	65.18
20			James Holzhauer, Las Vegas NV	65.11
21			Bill Goldstone, Bellingham WA	64.93
22			Mark McCarthy, San Francisco CA	64.91
23			Eric Robinson, Park City UT	64.88
24			Barry Spector, Lewes DE	64.46
25			Mike Cappelletti, Delray Beach FL	64.44
26	1		Lei Tsui, Thousand Oaks CA	64.31
27			Lloyd Rawley, Greenbelt MD	64.24
28			Mark Bennett, Honolulu HI	64.20
29			Vincent Wilmot Jr., Gaithersburg MD	64.19
30	2	1	Max Cheng, Toronto ON	64.17
31			Ross Shine, Chorley, United Kingdom	64.09
32	3	2	Michael Swift, Washington DC	64.08
33	4		Vladimir Kolbun, Forest Hills NY	63.91
34			Brad Theurer, Gaithersburg MD	63.88
35			Jiang Gu, Mountain Lakes NJ	63.86
36			Guy Gecht, Los Altos CA	63.78
37	5		David London, Montreal QC	63.72
38			Tien-Chun Yang, San Jose CA	63.67
39	6		Alan Feigenbaum, Chapel Hill NC	63.58
40			Rafal Gardzielewski, Daszewice, Poland	63.56
41			Willem Mevius, Pertuis, France	63.54
42			Anton Tsypkin, Sherborn MA	63.53
42	7		Junhui Zhu, Burnaby BC	63.53
44	8		Colin Schloss, Falls Church VA	63.49
45			Jordan Chodorow, West Hollywood CA	63.28
46			Aidan Ballantyne, Burnaby BC	63.24
47			Richard McCombs, Santa Fe NM	63.22
48			David Yang, Darien IL	63.11
49			Franco Baseggio, New York NY	63.08
50			Barry Goren, Las Vegas NV	63.06
51			Christopher Moh, New York NY	62.94
52			Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks CA	62.84
53			Ralph Russo, Orlando FL	62.83
54			Steven Drew, McMinnville OR	62.76
55			Rumen Georgiev, Des Plaines IL	62.75
56			Alberto Gerli, Padova, Italy	62.71
57	9		Adam Deeb, Clearwater FL	62.70

A	B	C	Percent
58		Gerald Jacobson, Fullerton CA	62.68
59	10	Joe Veal, Oklahoma City OK	62.64
60		Venkatesh Ramaratnam, Bengaluru, India	62.63
61		Eric Goff, Austin TX	62.61
62		John Garrison, Hailey ID	62.55
63		Brian Snell, Columbus OH	62.53
64		Leo Lasota, Ewa Beach HI	62.50
65	11	Yanlai Yang, Jersey City NJ	62.49
66		Jeff Gertz, Salem MA	62.45
66	12	Matt Just, Athens GA	62.45
68		Samuel Marks, Atlanta GA	62.44
69		Ben Bomber, Grandview WA	62.36
70		Ronald Vickery, Oro Valley AZ	62.33
71		Michael Bodell, Santa Clara CA	62.31
72		Drew Cavalier, Huntsville AL	62.28
73		Richard Bender, Springfield MO	62.26
74		Peter Zelnik, Austria	62.22
75		Kyle Rockoff, Gilbert AZ	62.09
76		Sandy Johnson, Ho-Ho-Kus NJ	61.99
77	13	Xin Ge, Cupertino CA	61.85
78		Steve Ford, Lawrenceburg KY	61.79
78		Bruce Lieberman, Doylestown PA	61.79
80	14	Eric Siegel, Brooklyn NY	61.76
81	15	3 Hsin-I Wu, San Diego CA	61.70
82		Philip Lowry, High Wycombe, United Kingdom	61.64
83	16	Daniel Mihalcea, Montgomery IL	61.61
83	16	Barak Engel, Oakland CA	61.61
83		Nathan Glasser, Somerville MA	61.61
86		Ben Blacik, Phoenix AZ	61.60
87		James Geist, Olney MD	61.53
88		Arthur Korth, Galloway NJ	61.51
89		Murat Azizoglu, Concord MA	61.49
90		Matthew Franklin, Oklahoma City OK	61.47
91		Wendy Beizer, Scarsdale NY	61.45
92	18	Peter Sugerman, Glastonbury CT	61.43
93		Dan Manea, Timisoara, Romania	61.41
94		John Gilbert, Kitchener ON	61.39
95	19	Jose Cortina, Oak Hill VA	61.34
95	19	Jordan Karol, Denver CO	61.34
97	21	Santhosh Karnik, Marietta GA	61.33
98		Tom Ferris, East Palestine OH	61.28
98		Fabrizio Biasiolo, Oakland Gardens NY	61.28
100		Jay Weinstein, Bethesda MD	61.27



This program instructs teachers in methods of administering and presenting LBIAD.

If you wish to be accredited, you must complete the following two requirements:

Serve as a Table Mentor at a LBIAD seminar ♠ Attend a two-hour LBIAD Teacher Training event

Teacher Training includes information on organizing and marketing LBIAD, maximizing retention, writing grant requests and seminar presentation. A light meal will be provided 6-6:30 p.m. To register, or if you have questions, please contact **Patty Tucker** at patty@whirlwindbridge.com.

Fee: \$75 USD (If purchasing a LBIAD license within 30 days of accreditation, \$50 of the \$75 fee will be applied to the first-year license fee.)

Instructor Accreditation

Saturday, Nov. 30 ♠ 12:30-8:30 p.m. ♠ Westgate Ballroom F&G

Evening entertainment

Two nights of fun evening entertainment are planned. These events will be held in the second floor conference rooms 7–13 of the Westgate, accessed from the stairs or elevator near FedEx.

Light food and cash bar at both.

Monday, Dec. 2

Beyond Bridge: Karaoke, board games, activities, photo booth, cornhole, etc. 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Bridge Mania: Jeopardy, Family Feud and other bridge-themed games. 8:30 p.m.



Fall Robot Individual

The Fall NABC Robot Individual was held earlier this week.

The three-session event is stratified and played online with Bridge Base Online robots. It pays gold points for overalls in each flight. It does not



Winner of the 2023 Fall Robot Individual: William Bleish

qualify for Grand Life Master status.

- 2018** 1A. Jonathan Ferguson; 1B. Samuel Jeong; 1C. Junhui Zhu.
- 2019** 1A. Phil Clayton; 1B/C. Liam King.
- 2020** 1A. Boris Tenchov; 1B Steve Welton; 1C. Junhui Zhu.
- 2021** 1A/B. Samuel Jeong; 1C. Wei Situ.
- 2022** 1A/B John Mayne; 1C. Raji Jarjour.
- 2023** 1A. William Bleish; 1B. John Mayne; 1C. Chen Zhou

Entry fees

A valid ACBL player number is required to play in all events at the NABC.

For all daytime events, a discount of \$10 per player per session is available to registered guests of the host hotel and residents of the host district who purchase entries through Entry Express.

Players must be ACBL members whose service fees or dues are current in order to compete in any Premier NABC+, NABC+ or NABC events.

Premier NABC+ events are the Soloway Knockout Teams, the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams and the Keohane North American Swiss Teams. The undiscounted entry fees for these contests are \$50 per player per session. For team events, this means \$200 per team per session for four-person teams, \$250 per team per session for five-person teams, and \$300 per team per session for six-person teams. For the four-session Swiss stage of the Soloway KO, the total undiscounted entry fee is \$150 per player.

NABC+ events are the Nail Life Master Pairs, Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams, Super Senior Pairs, Whitehead Women's Pairs, NABC+ Mixed Pairs and NABC+ Mixed Swiss Teams. The undiscounted entry fees for these contests are \$45 per player per session. For team events, this means \$180 per team per session for

four-person teams, \$225 per team per session for five-person teams, and \$270 per team per session for six-person teams.

Note: \$1.50 per person per session benefits the International Fund for all of the above events.

NABC events are the 0–6000 Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs, the 0–10,000 Swiss Teams, the 0–10,000 IMP Pairs, the 0–10,000 Fast Pairs, the 0–2500 Pairs and the 0–6000 Pairs. The undiscounted entry fee is \$35 per player per session. For the team events, this means \$140 per team per session for teams of four, \$175 per team per session for teams of five, and \$210 per team per session for teams of six.

Regional events are \$32 per player per session for current members without discount, \$37 for inactive members. For team events of one or two sessions, the entry fee is \$128 per session regardless of the number of team members. Evening events are \$22 per player per session.

Events with a limit of 300 masterpoints or lower are \$28 per player per session for current members without discount, \$33 for inactive members.

Regional events held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 28, are \$36 per player for current members without discount. For these events, \$4 per player per session benefits the ACBL Educational Foundation.

Nail Life Master Pairs begins today



Last year's winners of the Nail Life Master Pairs: Oscar Nijssen and Luc Tijssen.

Play begins today in the Nail Life Master Pairs. The event, restricted to Life Masters, consists of two qualifying sessions and two final sessions.

Before 1963, the event was restricted to National Masters and players of higher rank. It was a men's event until 1990, when it was changed to an open event.



At stake is the Bobby Nail Trophy, designated by the ACBL Board of Directors to honor the diminutive Texan (1925–95) who won this event in 1974 with longtime friend and partner Gerald Michaud.

Nail, inducted into the Bridge Hall of Fame in 2001, won four other North American championships and represented North America twice in the Bermuda Bowl. His team was second in 1963.

Past winners:

1961	G. Gard Hays, Max Manchester	1990	Zia Mahmood, Hugh Ross
1962	Sam Fuoto, Victor Mitchell	1991	Zia Mahmood, Hugh Ross
1963	Sami Kehela, Eric Murray	1992	Mike Kamil, Michael Rosenberg
1964	Charles Coon, Bobby Goldman	1993	Brad Moss, Ravindra Murthy
1965	Paul Soloway, Alex Tschekaloff	1994	Robert Levin, Richard Katz
1966	Carl Hudecek, Ray Zoller	1995	John Sutherlin, Bart Bramley
1967	Harlow Lewis, Peter Pender	1996	Walter Schafer, Ron Smith
1968	Henry Bethe, John Solodar	1997	Kerry Smith, Jeff Schuett
1969	Chuck Burger, James Cayne	1998	JoAnna Stansby, Lew Stansby
1970	Ron Andersen, Hugh MacLean	1999	Paul Soloway, Steve Catlett
1971	Alan Sontag, Peter Weichsel	2000	Jill Meyers, Steve Garner
1972	Leslie Bart, Marc Jacobus	2001	Piotr Gawrys, Jacek Pszczola
1973	Edgar Kaplan, Norman Kay	2002	Eric Greco, Geoff Hampson
1974	Gerald Michaud, G. Robert Nail	2003	Jo Morse, Kyle Larsen
1975	Steve Lapides, Walt Walvick	2004	Richard Pavlicek, Richard Pavlicek Jr.
1976	Roger Bates, John Mohan	2005	Zia Mahmood, Jill Meyers
1977	David Hoffner, David Schroeder	2006	Steve Garner, Howard Weinstein
1978	Norm Coombs, Tom Hodapp	2007	Zia Mahmood, Bjorn Fallenius
1979	Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell	2008	Nikolay Demirev, Ralph Katz
1980	V. Craig Janitschke, Jan Janitschke	2009	Tor Helness, Martin Andresen
1981	Roger Abelson, Mike Levinson	2010	Hiroaki Miura and Kazuo Furuta
1982	Robert Lipsitz, Dan Gerstman	2011	Ishmael Del'Monte, Justin Lall
1983	Marty Bergen, Larry Cohen	2012	Chip Martel, Zia Mahmood
1984	Per Olov Sundelin, Peter Pender	2013	Curtis Cheek, Ishmael Del'Monte
1985	John Mohan, Roger Bates	2014	Jim Kjekorian, Venkatrao Koneru
1986	Jim Kjekorian, Paul Kiefer	2015	Geoff Hampson, Eric Geco
1987	Bart Bramley, Lou Bluhm	2016	Marion Michielsen, Zia Mahmood
1988	Robert Levin, Larry Cohen	2017	Alon Birman, Dennis Bilde
1989	Steve Lapides, Walt Walvick	2018	David Grainger, Greg Hinze
In 1990, the event became the Life Master Open Pairs.		2019	Radu Nistor, Iulian Rotaru
		2020	Not held
		2021	Phillip Becker, Kenneth Kranyak
		2022	Kevin Dwyer, Shan Huang
		2023	Oscar Nijssen, Luc Tijssen

District 7 Bridge

2024-25 Winter and Spring Tournaments



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DEC 30 - JAN 5, 2025
Embassy Suites/Convention Center
Ring in the New Year
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Phone: (843) 494-4579
Email: tom.musso36@gmail.com

HILTON HEAD, SC

FEB 24 - MAR 2, 2025
Hilton Beachfront Resort & Spa
Winter Destination
Co-Chair: Ezz Khalifa
Phone: (315) 382-1605
Email: hekbridge@gmail.com

GATLINBURG, TN

APRIL 21-27, 2025
Gatlinburg Convention Center
America's Favorite Regional
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Phone: (859) 324-9699
www.gatlinburgregional.org

GREENVILLE, SC

JUNE 16-22, 2025
Hyatt Regency Greenville
The Friendly Regional
Co-Chair: Jim Villanueva
Phone: (864) 414-0247
Email: jimvillanueva1@gmail.com

Soloway KO starts today



Winners of the Soloway KO Teams last year: npc Fernando Piedra, Michal Klukowski, Michal Nowosadzki, captain Pierre Zimmermann, Jacek Kalita, Sebastiaan Drijver and Sjoert Brink.

The Soloway Knockout Teams gets underway today. The top-tier contest begins with a two-day Swiss qualifying round, reducing the field to 32 squads, followed by five days of head-to-head knockout matches to produce a single winner.

The contest awards platinum points, which are even available from match awards in the Swiss qualifier.

The Soloway KO concludes on Thursday, so that it does not conflict with the venerable Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, which begins the following day.

The contest is named in honor of late Hall of Famer Paul Soloway (1941–2007), who was the all-time ACBL masterpoint leader until his death. Soloway was the winner of



five Bermuda Bowls and 31 North American championships. In 2001 he was the first recipient of the Sidney Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award.

The Soloway KO debuted in San Francisco in 2019.

- 2019** 1. Jacek Pszczola, Jacek Kalita, Michal Nowosadzki, Sjoert Brink, Sebastiaan Drijver. 2. Nick Nickell, Ralph Katz, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Robert Levin, Steve Weinstein
- 2020** Not held
- 2021** 1. Warren Spector, Gavin Wolpert, Vincent Demuy, Kevin Bathurst, John Kranyak, John Hurd. 2. Antonio Palma, Fredrik Nystrom, Frederic Wrang, Juan Carlos Ventin, Joaquin Pacareu
- 2022** 1. Simon Cope, Kevin Rosenberg, Finn Kolesnik, Ishmael Del'Monte. 2. Paul

Street, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Andrea Manno, Massimiliano Di Franco, Ron Pachtmann, Piotr Pawel Zatorski

- 2023** 1. Pierre Zimmermann, Michal Nowosadzki, Sebastiaan Drijver, Sjoert Brink, Jacek Kalita, Michal Klukowski. 2. Paul Street, Nicolas L'Ecuyer, Ron Pachtmann, Piotr Pawel Zatorski, Andrea Manno, Mssimiliano Di Franco

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Learn two useful doubles that happen every time you play!

This seminar is for players who want to expand their understanding of the game. The goal is to give you a fast, fun and interesting overview of takeout doubles and also teach you how negative doubles work.

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Time: 1-5 p.m.

Location: Check Daily Bulletin

Cost: Only \$20 when you pre-register at acbl.org/regbiad \$25 at the door.

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Email marketing@acbl.org



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Robot recap

Bill Bleish, whose BBO screen name is “78jayhawk,” successfully defended his title as Fall NABC Robot Individual winner this week (see pg. 1) and provided the following deals about the three-day online event.

On Day 1, I had a solid game with only two minus boards and not many chances to improve upon my score. The boards were pretty flat, and I only had one board above 85%. I was in 70th place.

On Day 2, I was dealt a monster! Nine of my 24 boards were above 90%. Unfortunately, I also had some screw-ups and gave away about 6% of the matchpoints. Nevertheless, I was the top overall scorer and moved up to seventh place. At that point, I knew I was in contention for the title.

Day 3 was another big game. Half of my boards were 85% or higher. At the end, I was just trying to get to the finish line, and so I was maybe too conservative, missing some games and a couple slams. I kept thinking, everything can’t be going this well: I am bound to get some bad breaks or finesses that are off – but it never happened!

It is such a thrill to win a second time against a field of world-class players and experts at the Robot game. I am a golfer and I would compare these NABC Robot Individual wins like having a hole-in-one in golf. It takes skill but also a lot of luck, which was certainly the case for me!

Here are a couple of hands that went my way.
From session two, I was pleased to find the right play on this one to gain a valuable overtrick and a 96.2% score:

Dlr: East	♠ 8 7 6 3		
Vul: N–S	♥ A 9 5 4		
	♦ 4 3		
	♣ A K 7		
♠ 10 2		♠ A K Q J 9 5	
♥ Q 7		♥ J 6 3 2	
♦ Q J 9 8 6 2		♦ 5	
♣ 9 5 3		♣ 8 6	
	♠ 4		
	♥ K 10 8		
	♦ A K 10 7		
	♣ Q J 10 4 2		
West	North	East	South
Robot	Robot	Robot	Bleish
		1♠	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

In the auction, my 3♦ bid was an attempt to get to 3NT if partner had a spade stop. When he bid 4♣, I was close to going to game but decided to not push it.
After a spade lead and continuation, I ruffed low. Needing

some diamond ruffs from dummy, I cashed a high diamond. West played the ♦9 which looked a little suspicious, so I decided to go to the table with a high trump and lead a diamond from the board. East ruffed, but it was on air, as West followed. I ruffed the spade continuation high and ruffed my losing diamond with the remaining high trump in dummy. I pulled West’s remaining trumps with my two top clubs. At this point, I had a complete count on the hand. East was 6–4 in the majors, and my last trump winner squeezed him in the majors, eliminating my heart loser. Here’s the position as I played my last trump:

	♠ 8	
	♥ A 9 5 4	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ Q
♥ Q 7		♥ J 6 3 2
♦ Q 8		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
	♠ —	
	♥ K 10 8	
	♦ K	
	♣ J	

On the ♣J, West let go of a diamond, and I discarded a low heart from dummy. East could safely pitch one low heart, but the ♦K was next, and it was the nail in the coffin for East.

Making five was worth 96%, and I didn’t have to risk bidding game for that result!

Here is the next-to-last deal for me on Day 3:

Dlr: South	♠ 10 2		
Vul: Both	♥ K 10 9 5 4		
	♦ A 9 8 2		
	♣ 9 5		
♠ A 9 8 5		♠ K 7 3	
♥ J 6 3		♥ Q	
♦ K 10 4		♦ Q J 7 6 5	
♣ Q 10 3		♣ K 7 4 2	
	♠ Q J 6 4		
	♥ A 8 7 2		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A J 8 6		
West	North	East	South
Robot	Robot	Robot	Bleish
			1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

On the surface, this looks like a pretty mundane partscore hand, but at matchpoints, overtricks are everything.

East led the ♦Q and somewhat strangely, West followed with the 10. I decided to try and find a parking space for my losing club and led a low spade at trick two. East ducked and West won the ace over dummy's queen. West returned a low diamond, I played the 8, East the jack, and I ruffed in dummy. I now led a low spade to the 10 and East's king. East shifted to a club, but too late!

I rose with the ace and cashed the ♠J, pitching my club. I then ruffed a club, West playing the 10. I ruffed a diamond, and West followed with the king. Now, my ♦9 was good, so I didn't need any more ruffs!

This was the position:

♠ 9	♠ —	♠ —
♥ J 6 3	♥ K 10 9 5	♥ Q
♦ —	♦ 9	♦ 7 6
♣ Q	♣ —	♣ K 7
	♠ 6	
	♥ A 8	
	♦ —	
	♣ J 8	

I cashed the ♥A and East followed with the queen. I was now at the crossroads. I know about restricted choice, but I am more about making the right play on the information available on the given hand. Neither opponent had bid, and it looked like East had the ♣K because West ducked the second club from the table rather than flying up with the king. Also, West didn't shift to the ♣K at trick three, so he probably didn't start with the ♣K Q 10. East hadn't bid 2♦ with five diamonds and at least 11 points (assuming he has the ♣K) and hadn't doubled either, so he probably didn't have four spades but could easily have four clubs.

I knew I had to get this right or I would just give back the trick I had "stolen"! After agonizingly going through all the possibilities, I decided to take the heart finesse against the jack. It won, and I had a cold top for making five. Making four would also have been a very good score but would have put me in second place and not first!

GREENVILLE, SC

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ACBL NABC+ Ethical Behavior Policy

This policy is dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical standards at ACBL's premier NABC+ events (Vanderbilt, Spingold, Soloway, Reisinger, three-day open pair and Swiss events). Participation signifies an agreement to abide by these standards, promoting fairness and respect across all games.

Understanding the Ethical Behavior Policy: Violations and Penalties

The ACBL is dedicated to ensuring a fair and ethical playing environment at our premier NABC+ events. To achieve this, we have established clear guidelines on what constitutes unethical behavior and the penalties for such violations.

Potential violations include:

- Blatant or Repeated Use of Unauthorized Information in violation of Law 72C1: Taking advantage of any actions, including tempo breaks or other means, that could convey information not legally available to a player.
- Willful or Repeated Failure to Disclose in violation of Law 40A1b: Under-disclosing information about methods.
- All potential violations will be recorded for analysis and future reference.

Our policy is designed to penalize but also to educate and prevent future unethical behavior. The aim is to foster an environment where fair play is at the heart of every game. We encourage all participants to familiarize themselves with these rules to avoid any misunderstandings or missteps during the competition. More detailed information on the Ethical Behavior Policy is available on our website, and we

welcome any inquiries for further clarification.

By clearly communicating both the potential violations and their consequences, the ACBL can ensure that participants are well-informed and can contribute to a fair and enjoyable competitive atmosphere.

Reporting and Investigation

Director Calls, Camera Evidence, Player Reports:

Suspected unethical behaviors observed by directors or captured on camera, and reports received from players, will be directed to the Player Integrity Panel (PIP).

Anonymity in Investigation: The PIP will assess the evidence without knowledge of the players' identities. Direct communication between players and the PIP is not permitted.

Decision Process

The application of any penalties under this policy requires a unanimous PIP decision.

Penalties:

First Offense: The player receives a warning, emphasizing the importance of ethical play, and the incident is documented.

Second Offense: One-year probationary period and a loss of seeding points. A violation during the probationary period incurs a minimum one-year suspension from NABC+ events.

Third Offense: Mandatory one-year suspension from NABC+ events and an additional loss of seeding points.

Additional Offenses: More severe penalties to be imposed.

Right to Appeal

Decisions made by the PIP can be appealed. An independent panel made up of regular high-level event participants will review appeals to ensure fairness.

Waiver and Acknowledgment

The captain of each team or one partner in pairs games must electronically sign a waiver acknowledging the ethical policy. Entry fee payment may be used as acknowledgment of the policy's terms and conditions.

Policy Review and Amendment

The policy will undergo regular reviews and updates to ensure it remains relevant and effective in promoting ethical play at ACBL NABC+ events.

Limited events eligibility

Players who have previously won an NABC+ event are not eligible to participate in any event with an upper masterpoint limit, including 0–10,000 events.



Selby's accuracy

by John Carruthers

"Plus 50," I called out on the last board of our desperately close Round of 32 match in the Soloway Knockout Teams in Atlanta.

"Ten to us," responded Selby, "we win the match by 6!" He'd kept a running total to avoid the necessity of our adding up the IMPs at the end.

"Wait a moment." I was puzzled. "Did they not lead a heart on that last board?" The deal was:

Dlr: West	♠ 10 9 6		
Vul: None	♥ A 4		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ A J 8 6 5 4		
♠ A		♠ 7	
♥ 7 6 3		♥ K Q J 9 8 5	
♦ A J 9 8 7 3		♦ Q 5 4	
♣ K 10 3		♣ 9 7 2	
	♠ K Q J 8 5 4 3 2		
	♥ 10 2		
	♦ K 2		
	♣ Q		

The auction had been the same at both tables:

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♣	2♥	4♠
All Pass			

At our table, I'd led a heart. Declarer had won with his ace and played a trump. I'd won, led a heart to Basil and his diamond shift had rendered the contract one off for plus 50. It had seemed pretty routine.

"They did indeed lead a heart."

"But you can't make it on a heart lead: if you duck, they win and switch to a diamond; if you win, they have a heart entry for a later diamond play," I inadvisably replied.

"Perhaps you ought to be more accurate. That is to say, others (he looked directly at me as he said this) could not have made it. To me, on the other hand, on the lie of the cards, it was very makeable." Selby had, not for the first time, both denigrated my bridge ability and impugned my proficiency with the language.

"I saw at once that to duck the heart would have been fatal with the ♦A almost certainly offside. Similarly, winning with the ♥A and playing on trumps would lead to, as you suggested, a heart continuation and a diamond through my king. Channelling one of my heroes, I reasoned that, 'Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable ...'" Truly, the man was insufferable sometimes.

"Clubs were what remained; if I played the ace and ruffed one, even if the king fell, I could not get back to the dummy in time for a discard on the jack; and playing low to the queen was hopeless, even in the unlikely event that it won.

What other alternatives could there be?"

Invoking Conan Doyle and Socrates in the analysis of a single deal was over the top, even for Selby. As ever, I was the straight man, even if a little impatient: "Tell us."

"The only possibilities that remained were that the ♣K was doubleton (with West, of necessity) or that clubs were 3-3. In that case, there were two options for me:

(i.) I could play the ace and a low club, discarding a heart, and if West had the doubleton king, the jack would be set up for a discard and East could never get in;

(ii.) If I played the ♣A, then the jack, discarding my heart loser, 3-3 clubs would see me home. I'd have the trump entries to dummy to ruff out the clubs and return to the established ones.

"I thought about the distribution and the lack of any further bidding from East-West. Either opponent might have bid more, either with a spade void or with four-card support for partner, so I put the spades at 1-1, and hearts and diamonds each at 6-3, since either opponent might also have bid on with his own seven-card suit. I decided that, on balance, West was most likely to be 1=3=6=3."

"When I played the ♣A at trick two and followed with the queen, West contributed the 10, seeing my plan and hoping to deflect me from it. But, persisting with my decision about West's shape, I continued with the ♣J to West's king, discarding my heart loser. West persevered with a heart, but I ruffed and led a trump. With two entries to the dummy, I was able to ruff a club, setting up the suit, to make my contract. West cashed the ♦A and led another when in with the ♠A, holding me to 10 tricks and his loss to 10 IMPs."

"I must say, that was very impressive."

"Finally, an accurate statement!"



Grand Life Master John Carruthers of Kingsville ON is an ACBL Hall of Famer and one of Canada's top players.

The former editor of the International Bridge Press Association's Bulletin, Carruthers is the current chair of the ACBL's Hall of Fame Committee and the author of "Bridge with Another Perfect Partner," which chronicles the adventures of Selby at the bridge table. Available at masterpointpress.com.

Tomorrow's Bridge Events

Saturday, Nov. 30

JUNIOR DAY

10 am

Event	Session	Sold	Entry/player/session*	
			Members with host discount	Members without discount
Saturday Morning Side Pairs <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
299er Pairs	single	Pavilion 11	\$18	\$28
Bridge Plus <i>Free: 12 deals (0-20), follows 8 am lesson</i>	single	Ballroom F	Free	Free

10 am & 3 pm

NAIL LIFE MASTER PAIRS	1-2 F	Ballroom A	\$35	\$45
NABC 0-2500 PAIRS <i>2 qualifying & 2 final sessions</i>	1-2 Q	Paradise South	\$25	\$35
Top-Flight Pairs (unlim./5000)	1-2	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
Mid-Flight Pairs (4000/1250)	1-2	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
Gold Rush Pairs	1-2	Pavilion 11	\$22	\$32
Open Bracketed Round Robin Teams	1-2	Paradise North	\$22	\$32

10 am & 3:30 pm

SOLOWAY KNOCKOUT TEAMS	3-4 Q	Ballroom C	—	—
NABC 0-10,000 SWISS TEAMS <i>2 qualifying & 2 final sessions</i>	1-2 Q	Ballroom C	\$25	\$35

3 pm

Saturday Afternoon Side Pairs <i>Thu-Sat Daylight Series</i>	single	Paradise South	\$22	\$32
299er Pairs	single	Pavilion 11	\$18	\$28

7:30 pm

Saturday Evening Side Pairs <i>Fri-Mon Evening Series</i>	single	Pavilion 11	\$22	\$22
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Unless otherwise noted, strata breaks for all stratified events are: A (2500+), B (750-2500), C (0-750). Three-flight events are divided A/X (6000+/0-6000); B/C (1500-3000, 0-1500); Gold Rush (300-750/200-300/0-200). Two-flight events are divided A/X/Y (6000+/4000-6000/0-4000); B/C/D (1500-3000/750-1500/ 0-750) if no Gold Rush OR A/B/C (3000+/1500-3000/0-1500) and Gold Rush (300-750/200-300/0-200). In B flights, no single player may be over 3000. In Gold Rush events, no single player may be over 750. **BOLD, UPPER CASE = NABC+ events.** UPPER CASE = NABC events. **Green = Regional events (gold and red points).** **Blue = Gold Rush events (gold and red points).** **Red = Intermediate/Newcomer 299er events (red points).**

International Fund

In NABC+ events, \$1.50 (per person, per session) of each entry fee will be allocated to the ACBL International Fund. These funds are used to underwrite part of the expenses of ACBL players who participate in international competition.